

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
July/August 2003



Echo Ireland is normally published bi-monthly for members by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9.
www.irts.ie

It is printed by Westside Press, Units 5/6, Greenhills Business Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
September 30th**

Calendar

**SSB Field Day
Sept 6/7th**

**Cork Rally
September 21st
Blarney Park Hotel**

**Mayo Rally
Nov 16th
Belmont Hotel, Knock**

**IRTS Annual Dinner
March 5th 2004**

**IRTS AGM
March 6th 2004**

**Limerick Rally
March 6th 2004.**

Inishbofin IOTA 2003



Members of South Dublin Radio Club and its sister club GEARS, from County Antrim who operated in the IOTA Contest from the island of Inishbofin, off the Galway coast. The callsign used was EJ2SDR.

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New Outgoing QSL Manager - see page 18

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Silent Key Alf Bradshaw EI9BC

It is with deep sadness and regret that we record the death of Alf Bradshaw on June 18th 2003.

We mourn the loss of an exceptional human being, loving devoted husband of Nellie, idolised father of Ruth, Margaret, Helen, Carol and Sylvia (recently deceased).

Alf first became interested in short wave radio at a very early age and obtained his callsign in 1956. He was best known for his fond love of ten metres and his professional approach to his homebrew equipment. Many night were spent in the Baggot Street Club with Alf lecturing on many subjects, but probably propagation being his favourite,

Unfortunately, almost ten years ago Alf was separated from his beautiful home and ham radio due to illness.

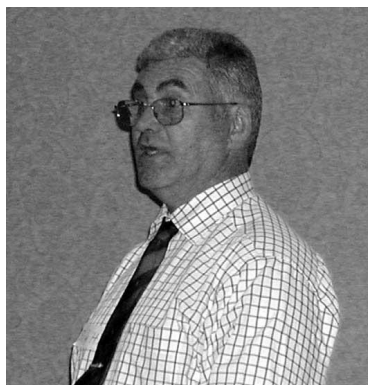
Alf was a source of great knowledge and encouragement in professional and amateur radio circles. He was also well now in DX circles.

A perfectionist, gentleman and a true special friend, he leaves an indelible mark on all who him. He will be sadly missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family on their sad loss.
May he rest in peace.

Brendan Daly EI4BB

We wish you a speedy recovery Peter



Peter Grant EI4HX is recovering from serious surgery. Great to see him out and about again.

Silent Key - Paddy Robinson EI4CL



It was with much regret that I learned of the death of Paddy Robinson, EI4CL, on 11 May 2003. Having spoken with him by telephone just a few weeks before, he appeared to be in good form despite his recent hospitalisation and continuing health problems.

I got to know Paddy for the first time back in the early 1970's. Both of us had been short wave listeners for some years but eventually succumbed to the need to be licensed radio experimenters. The usual meeting place for IRTS members was at 91 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin where Morse code and radio theory classes were provided by the late Bill McIlwaine, EI9F and other stalwarts.

Unlike me, Paddy had no difficulty with any aspect of theoretical and practical amateur radio but he did need to have a second run at passing the Morse competency test. Having succeeded in obtaining the necessary paperwork in May 1973 we went on the air almost immediately, and after the first year, continued to use and develop the code sending skill in preference to SSB.

As is normal over the years and with the priorities of family and work commitments, contact between us became more "on-the-air" or was by sporadic lengthy telephone calls. We developed different operating interests; I remained an HF enthusiast while Paddy became a "via Satellite" devotee. Never having equipment for VHF operations, I was always amazed - and a wee bit jealous - at his achievements via the different satellites. This was evidenced by the many confirmations arriving for EI4CL at the IRTS QSL bureau. Nevertheless this did not mean abandoning the HF bands because Paddy was a frequent caller on 40m after the Sunday morning EI0RTS news bulletin.

In writing this personal tribute to Paddy, it is also necessary to say that his interests were not only radio related. In the first instance, I always felt his immense pride in his family. You can see the happy smiles of his two children, Evelyn and Alan, in the accompanying photograph taken by Paddy in July 1972. Some years later, Evelyn and Alan joined the radio amateur ranks as EI2DP and EI8EZ.

In his younger days he was a keen ballroom dancer with championship medals to prove it. As an amateur photographer he had his own home studio, lighting equipment, darkroom and all materials for printing his work.

At some stage when I mentioned to him that I had hitch-hiked in Czechoslovakia in 1967, he could claim far better having toured there in his car in late 1968. Although it was not unusually dangerous, the existence of the "iron curtain" and the completion of much paperwork was formidable; it took a lot of guts to make this choice of holiday destination rather than staying on the "safer" side.

On his passing the world of amateur radio has lost an exceptional contributor. On a personal level, he will be sadly missed. To his wife, Patricia, and to Evelyn and Alan, it has been a great honour to have known Paddy and to have been able to call him Friend.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Photo taken by Paddy Robinson in July 1972.

Location - Site of second EI0DI expedition to Dalkey Island, County Dublin. In the photo: left to right - Jos Klinkenbergh EI8BZ (SK), Bill McIlwaine EI9F (SK), Micheal Mullins EI-280 (later EI7CR, now ZL2FAR), Alan Robinson and Evelyn Robinson. At right side, Tom McLoughlin EI-400 and Gerry Gervin EI8CC.

The Brendan Trophies Claim adjudication

The Brendan Trophies called after Brendan the Navigator were instituted in 1995 under the auspices of the Irish Radio Transmitters' Society when a group of amateurs from EI, GW and G secured the agreement of Waterford Glass to donate two inscribed Waterford Crystal Cut Glass Vases. The trophies are to be awarded to the first two stations to establish two-way communication across the Atlantic on the two-metre band.

An application was made by e-mail on 17 June 2002 by Alexander Dutkewych N2PIG and Debra Dutkewych VA3PIG for the award of the trophies on the basis of "a full two-way exchange, across the Atlantic Ocean, on the Two Metre Amateur Radio Band". The applicants indicated that the claimed contact had taken place on 19 March 2002. The time was subsequently confirmed as being between 2215 and 2246 UTC.

Alex's station was located at the Captain's Inn, Old Perlican, Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland in QRA GN38lc. The station comprised an Icom 970A transceiver and a Command Technologies Linear running about 700 watts PEP to a nine-element yagi at an azimuth of 066 degrees true.

Debra's station was located at Allaghee Mor, Ballinskelligs, Iveragh Peninsula, Co Kerry, Ireland in QRA IO41ut. The station comprised an Icom 910 H transceiver and a Linear Amp UK Discovery amplifier running 400 watts PEP to a nine-element yagi at an azimuth of 269 degrees true. The mode used was FSK441 (WSJT).

The Irish Radio Transmitters' Society immediately set up an Awards Panel under the relevant Rules comprising Sean Nolan EI7CD, Chairman, Paul Martin EI2CA and Joe Fadden EI3IX. On 26 June the Awards Panel wrote to the applicants by e-mail indicating that while the application was received just within the three month time period prescribed by the Rules it did not set out clearly the evidence of a valid contact which was relied on to substantiate their claim nor did it contain precise details of the claimed contact or include the signed Declaration of Honesty required by the Rules.

However, in the true spirit of amateur radio and since the applicants e-mail indicated that they were prepared to substantiate the claim by full elaboration of the events, the Awards Panel decided, as an exceptional matter, to accept the e-mail of 17 June as a provisional application. This was subject to the submission of a fully detailed claim, including all necessary evidence and the required signed Declaration of Honesty within six weeks of our letter of 26 June 2002. Despite two further e-mails from the Awards Panel nothing further was heard from the applicants by the time the six-week period expired on 6 August 2002. The full extensive documentation relating to the claim was finally received on 22 or 23 August 2002.

The Awards Panel, having fully considered the matter decided that

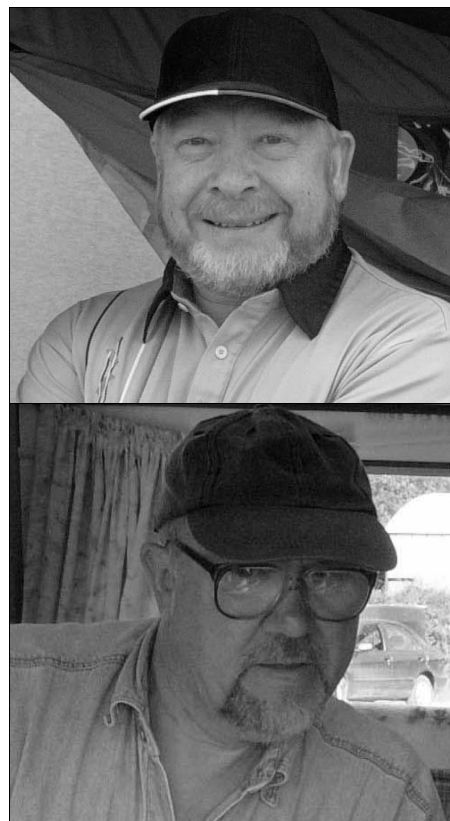
- The application did not comply with the provisions of Rule 6 of the relevant Rules even as exceptionally applied in this case and accordingly could not be accepted as a valid application
- even if this were not the case the level of proof being provided was not sufficient given that the claimed contact was as a result of pre-arranged tests.

The awards panel had sympathy with the difficulties that the applicants indicated they had encountered with computer files and even allowed ample time for any possible recovery. The Panel, however, had to come to its decision objectively, based on the merits of the application as submitted.

The Panel also appreciates the efforts that the applicants put into their experiments and realise the disappointment that the decision must have been to Debra and Alex.

The relevant Rules for the Brendan Trophies are available at <http://www.irts.ie>.htm

Sean Nolan EI7CD
Chairman Awards Panel
ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie



Corrections

Apologies to Pat EI9HX (top) and Anatolij EI4JF who were given incorrect names and callsigns in the last edition.

SSB Field Day 2003

This years SSB Field Day will be held over the weekend of September 6th and 7th and will be held at a central location at St Josephs College, Garbally, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

At the time of writing, eight stations have indicated their intention of participating.

Another two stations will also take part at their usual locations.

Most of the stations will be in the restricted section and competition should be good.

Welfare facilities will be provided on site and anyone wishing to travel and who does not have a station to operate should contact the Contest Manager, Noel EI2JC. There are a few stations who could do with an extra body or two.

Casual visitors will be very welcome to call and observe the action.

Anyone who can make it on the Friday night should do so as we will have a social gathering locally.

Further information from Noel EI2JC.
nwalsh@eircom.ie

Silent Key - Tom Jeffery EI3HH

Tom Jeffery - EI3HH
1921 ~ 2003

Born in 1921 in London England, Tom spent his early years in the RAF as a Radio Operator. His travels around the world with the RAF were the source of many a good story over a bottle or two of his home made wine, at his home in Abbeyfeale.

Tom and his lady wife Joan came to Ireland in December 1989 and they chose to live in Abbeyfeale because amongst other things it was a good location for a HF station.

Any visitor to his shack will testify, his array of antennas dominated the Dromtrasna Collins skyline.

Tom could be described as a passionate man and he approached everything he did with a passion. It would be hard to say if he had an overriding interest in any one thing because he put all his energy into everything he did. Intelligent and well read with a memory to match he could hold forth on a wide range of subjects.

An avid CW man, Tom proposed the introduction of a CW news service to the IRTS in 1993.

He became well known on the 10:30 news bulletins initially on 80 metres and later on 40 metres, 7032 kHz. He didn't just read the script, he had a word for everyone and he constantly tried to adjust speeds frequencies times etc. to accommodate a wider audience.

He was never in a rush after the news and sometimes spent most of the day on the key.

In 1994 Tom was awarded to Collins Cup for his service to the IRTS and the CW news bulletin.

He never failed to acknowledge the patience and understanding of Joan, at times she must have been ready to throw the radio out of the window especially as Tom's normal volume level was on the high side of quite.

Toms health had been in decline for the past number of years, forcing longer and longer periods when he could not use the key.

Whenever I visited him in hospital in Tralee or the Regional in Limerick he always asked about the CW News and the numerous regular callers.

He never gave up the hope that he would get back on air.

Tom slipped quietly and peacefully to rest in Newcastle West on the 31st July 2003. Finally, I can say that Tom and God are old acquaintances - at the 50th anniversary of the Irish Aer Corp in Baldonnell Tom introduced me to the Chief Air Marshall of the RAF, who Tom assured me was known to all in that service as "God".

If God doesn't already understand Morse code, he soon will and will be blazing away on the key with the best of them.

It was a great pleasure for me to have known him, always entertaining, always doing something new, always positive.

He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.
May he rest in Peace.

Pat Geoghegan EI9EZ



Morse Code Requirement for Access to HF Bands

It is now well known that the recent World Radio Conference in Geneva removed the mandatory requirement to pass a test in Morse Code before allowing access to the HF Bands. Instead it transferred the decision retaining or removing the Morse Test to National Regulatory Authorities.

In July, shortly after the conclusion of the Geneva Conference, the Regulatory Authorities in Switzerland and the United Kingdom decided to remove the Morse requirement and permitted Amateurs with the equivalent of our Class B licenses to operate on the HF Bands using their existing Callsigns.

In August, the authorities in Belgium and Germany took a similar step.

The Commission for Communication Regulation here is of the view that any decisions on the Morse requirement should be taken by all the CEPT countries acting in unison and that unilateral decisions by individual countries generate unnecessary confusion.

ComReg anticipates that a CEPT meeting will be held in the early Autumn at which the issue will be discussed and a decision taken.

ComReg has assured that IRTS that any CEPT decisions will be implemented in Ireland at the same time as in other member countries.

IRTS is of the view that since four CEPT countries have already taken unilateral decisions, there can no longer be a unified CEPT position.

Accordingly, IRTS has recommended to ComReg that all licensed Experimenters in EI should be granted HF privileges at the earliest possible date.

First EI - A61 on 6m.

Thos EI2JD is claiming a first on 6 Metres, EI to A61.

He made the QSO on July 19th 2003 at 1139 with A61AH.

They exchanged 55 reports and the square at A61AH is LL34JQ.

On the same day, Thos also worked HZ1MD on 6 Metres.



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road, Togher, Cork
ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to another On the Air column which is taken over by the IOTA programme once again hi!

We're still suffering Summer type band conditions during daylight hours with scarcely a peep to be heard on **10m** these days. The Sporadic-E season is winding down on **6m** and as I'm typing this in mid August we finally have a summer of sorts and it's too fine weather-wise to be spent in the shack!

Band Reports

Despite the bands still remaining fairly poor overall during the months of July and August there were some excellent DX to be worked out there with a lot of activity from the African Continent. There were some interesting "slims" claiming to be from the rarest of the rare and once more IOTA's are the mainstay of the article!

Keeping the bands lively were a group on from St Paul Island (NA-094) as CY9A who came on as scheduled between July 24th to August 8th and were quite an easy catch here from the west of Europe.

St Paul island is another of these oddball DXCC Entities that managed to get on the list years ago when you could nearly nominate any island as a "separate" country, it lies just 15 miles from the northern tip of Nova Scotia so it's reasonably accessible and is just 3 miles long by 1 mile wide.

Permission to land must be obtained from the Canadian Coast Guard but other than that and the violent Atlantic weather (hi!) St Paul is an easy place to activate.

Operating just across the bay were Paul, K9OT, and Peg, KB9LIE, who were on as FP/Home calls from St Pierre and Miquelon (NA-032).

Strangely enough we had two other "oddball" DXCC's creating a "buzz" in the DX circles when people popped up claiming to be operating from Navassa island (KP1) and Desecheo island (KP5) both in the Caribbean and both as rare as hen's teeth!

First up was KP1DX/MM claiming to be a fisherman who was moored at Navassa island.

Now you might think that Navassa, lying just 160km from the big US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, would be activated on a regular basis.

Not so, this 5.2 sq. km "rock" is visited by pirates and the US Coast Guard transferred administration to the Department of the Interior (Office of Insular Affairs) in 1996 and after a scientific expedition in 1998 they immediately declared Navassa to be a National Wildlife Refuge. Obtaining the paperwork to land there is extremely difficult these days, a few have tried but certainly in the past 10 years there hasn't been an operation from Navassa.

The history of why Navassa belongs to the US and not Haiti, which is only 40 miles east, is that in 1856 the US Congress had passed the so-called Guano Act which declared that any unclaimed and uninhabited island anywhere in the world that contained Guano (bird-droppings!) could be claimed by a US citizen to be US territory!

Lucky they didn't get to the Skelligs or Rockall so!

Likewise with Desecheo which is even smaller again at just 1.5 sq. km and lies just 14 miles off the coast of Puerto Rico.

What's strange is that you can dive on the coral reefs around Desecheo but not go on the island itself which is just what WP4U was doing when he signed WP4U/KP5 (later changing it to WP4U/Mona when he moved onto the other popular diving spot Mona island which lies 6 nautical miles South of Desecheo) Other "Slims" trying it on were 5A3A and 5T5BA, don't waste your time on them.

Finished by the by the time you read this will be a group of mainly Spanish ops who put Mali on the air as TZ6RD over the period Aug 12-21st.

Also over is the trip to Temotu Province, part of the Solomon islands and one of our "newer" DXCC's by Dan, JA1PBV,

who was QRV as H40V and Kazuo, P29KM, who used H40H with both of them staying primarily on CW.

We had the IOTA Contest over the weekend of July 26/27th and once again large numbers of IOTA numbers could be worked very easily.

A person could easily have obtained the Basic Award of 100 islands no problem hi!

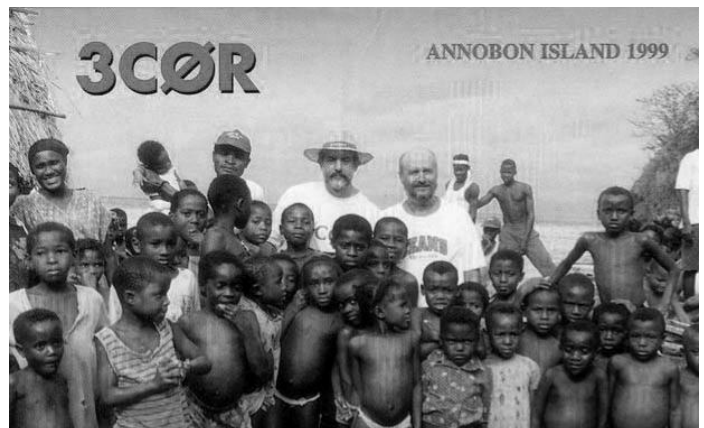
Every Continent was QRV and among the more interesting on were, from Africa first, IW9FMW (AF-018), EG9IC (AF-036) and CT9D from AF-046. Flying the flag for Antarctica was LU1ZV on AN-016, lots on from Asia, especially the Chinese and heard/worked were RI0MR (AS-066), D88DX (AS-080), TA1ZK/0 (AS-099), E21EIC/P (AS-107), BI4HS (AS-136), BI5P (AS-138) and BV2B/BV9W on AS-155.

No problems to pick up the Europeans of course but there was some short skip on **15m** as I managed to work the East Cork lads, EJ7M, on Bere island (EU-121) and also briefly heard Declan, EJ9HQ, but couldn't attract his attention, other noteworthy EU numbers were RW3TN/1 (EU-066), ED1ONS (EU-080), CU9X (EU-089), MM0CWJ/P (EU-111), RX3AJL/1 (EU-147), UT4ZG/P (EU-179) and on from Crete's Coastal islands, J49RW on EU-187.

Moving westwards Canada seemed to be the place with the most islands on from North America with plenty of lesser activated ones battling it out, juicy catches include: K9AJ/VY0 (NA-007), VE9MY/VE2 (NA-038), VE9GLF/VE2 (NA-039), CK2/VE3EXY (NA-128) and W2NTJ/VY0 (NA-173).

Not much on from Oceania, just 3D2BT (OC-016) and 9M6/JJ2QXI on "mainland" OC-088, equally from South America just YV7QP (SA-012), PP5ZK (SA-027), PS2I (SA-071) and YW6P on SA-090).

The month of July had a few new ones thrown our way with K9AJ/VY0 and K9PPY/VY0 coming on from Somerset island, part of the Nunavut Prince of Wales and Somerset islands group 500



(Continued from page 6)

miles North of the Arctic Circle and now NA-225/pr.

Also touring the far North regions were KD6WW/VY0 who came on from both NA-006 and NA-131, W2NTJ/VY0 who was on from NA-196, VY1/N7FL was on Herschel island (NA-193) and finally from Alaska we got W5BOS and N5XG/KL7 from NA-121, must be a lot of fishing trips done to that part of the world hi!

The other new one came from Asia when a large group of South Korean ops put the last unnumbered IOTA Reference left in South Korea, Kangwon-do Province Group South, when they activated Chuk island (AS-168/pr), numerous call signs were used like HL1EJT/2, HL1OYF/2, HL9DX/2, DS1EVQ/2 and DS3BGI/2.

Causing a bit of confusion on the bands was Roger, G3SWH, who thanks to a typing error on the licence issued to him by the French Polynesian Postal Authorities had to come on as FO/G35WH (yes, the number thirty five hi!) from the Austral islands in the Pacific along with FO/G3MFW/P.

Taking a long break from their sailing around the Pacific trip couple Mike, KM9D, and Jan, KF4TUG, are happy to soak up some sun and play radio as 3D2MO and 3D2BT from Vanua Levu (OC-016) Fiji.

We also had the usual run of Special Event stations on, among those heard/ worked were TM100P and TM100N celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Tour De France for the Pornic to Nantes leg, hence the "suffixes".

On from Greece between July 18-20 and again Jul 25-27 was SX1MBA to commemorate the battleship Georgios Averoff.

Celebrating a birthday were the RSGB who are 90 years in existence and ran GB90RSGB from various locations around the UK and on for the month of August were the "The Otago Branch of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters," one of the oldest Radio Clubs in New Zealand and sporting the special call ZM4A to celebrate their 75 years of existence.

Also celebrating an Anniversary during August Amateurs in Macedonia (Z3) were allowed to add "100" to their suffix (making it Zulu three one hundred!) this is to mark the 100th anniversary of the victory of the Ilinden Revolution against the Ottoman Empire.

CO0R was on for just one day on August 9th to commemorate the 150th Anni-

versary of the birth of Cuban national hero Jose Marti, who says you can't learn both Geography and History from this hobby hi!

Looking ahead, listen out for TM5GAP between Sep 6-14th from Gap/Tallard airfield during the World

Parachuting Championship, while on now some unusual prefixes can be heard on the bands from the Netherlands as Hams can now pick any prefix/suffix from PA-PH for free so expect the likes of PF and PG'S hi!

Lots of activity now from Iraq as official licences are been issued by the interim Government, indeed on July 15th I heard the following number of YI call signs! on **15m** were YI/KC0LEK on Phone, YI/N2OBM also on Phone, YI/S57CQ on CW, YI/KV4EB on RTTY, while YI/SM0WKA could be worked on **17m** CW and finally in this half-hour session YI/NG5L was to be found on **20m** Phone.

Also to be found on from Iraq is YI/4L4FN, Ed, of P5/4L4FN fame! After many years of trying to work his own country Robert, 3B9FR, on Rodri-guez island (AF-017) finally achieved his ambition when Guy, FR5ZL, and formerly FW5ZL was active for a few weeks as 3B9ZL and sometimes you could find the pair on the same band and mode most evenings together.

There were also a lot of amateurs on from the still active volcanic island of Montserrat (NA-103) with VP2MDO, VP2MHX, VP2MID, VP2MPF, VP2MJL, VP2MNS, VP2MJR, VP2MNS, VP2MWB, VP2MX, VP2MLE and VP2MVU all QRV between July 25-29, that's a lot of hams on such a small island and during an RTTY "ragchew" with VP2MWB he was saying that the volcanic ash is a problem and that he has to clean the rig very often as any slightest breeze will blow the fine ash everywhere!

Africa though seemed to have been the place to be in the past couple of weeks with many groups putting on, sometimes the same DXCC, mini DX-peditions! A strange call surfaced from Burundi (9U) when Gilbero, IK3CHI, came on sporting 9UACH, while causing much excitement Baldur, DJ6SI, made an unexpected appearance from Somalia us-



ing his old call T5X.

We now have a station signing 600A on from Somalia as well with main operator Sam, VK2BVS, saying that it's an Amateur Radio training school based at the facilities of Radio Galkayo in North East Somalia and that the Somali students need 10 contacts as part of their training, unfortunately this station will not QSL! Plenty of welcome activity from Lesotho (7P) when you could have caught 7P8CF, 7P8DA, 7P8IZ, 7P8MJ, 7P8NK and 7P8TA burning up the airwaves. Once again Chuck, EI4IS, comes to my rescue with a sample of what he's worked during July.

Like myself mostly IOTA's, gracing Chuck's log were: A35VB (OC-064), AL7DB, CY9A, K9PPY/VY0 (NA-225), R1PQ (EU-035), TF7X (EU-071), V31ED, VE1/K1WO (NA-126) and VY1/N7FL (NA-198), just a small sample of what could be found with careful listening, all QSO's were made on **20m**.

I spent the last few weeks just improving my RTTY DXCC totals and working a few rare ones for the IOTA award so I'm afraid my log is a bit short hi! "Goodies" on RTTY include: 4W3DX, 7X0AD, AH8LG, CY9A, FS/N3OC, JY4NE, KH6ND, SX9G (EU-187), TG9ANF, VK6GOM, VP2MWB, VP9/IK2RZP, XW1IC, YE1D, YI/KV4EB, ZC4DW and finally ZL2AMI.

I was hoping to have added Jan Mayen (JX) to my list of new ones as Ove, LA2IJ, was due to take up a tour of duty as JX2IJ between July 24-31 and had planned to operate on RTTY almost exclusively but the plane couldn't land and flights only go there about four times a year, so one that got away.

After my statement in the last issue about Jake, N6XIV, gone QRT from Wake island (KH9) and been replaced by Chuck, N4BQW/KH9, he's now back on Wake since July 26th for another five weeks or so and this will apparently

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

be his last trip to Wake for 2003.
QSL him to K2FF.

Up and Coming

Plenty of trips coming up in the next few weeks and first off is Andy, G3AB, who plans to be on from Christmas Island (OC-002) as possibly VK9XAB, this happening from Aug 30-Sep 6. Chris, DL1MGB, will be doing the Region One SSB Field Day in style from Trinidad as 9Y4TBG during both the Field Day and the WAE SSB Contest and then using 9Y4/DL1MGB before and after the contests.

LA7QI and LA8AW will be cooling off on Svalbard (EU-026) between Sep 16-22 with the calls JW7QI and JW8AW and also plan to use the contest call JW8D for the SAC (Scandinavian Activity Contest).

Other Norwegians heading off, not too far this time, will be the QLF DX Team, whose last trip was from Sao Tome as S9LA, but this time are taking a short boat trip to Market Reef (EU-053) and will air as OJ0LA from Sep 19-26. Ploughing a lonely furrow will be Allen, K6USN, who'll be on far-flung Rarotonga Atoll (OC-013), part of the South Cook islands chain between Sep 18-21 before going onto Aitutiki Island (OC-083) which is a separate DXCC Entity in the form of the North Cook islands. The call ZK1USN will be used from both entities.

In the same neighbourhood (relatively speaking) a group of four German operators will be on Tubuai island (OC-152), part of the Austral islands, during the timeframe Sep 18 to Oct 3 and will comprise of DJ4OI, Richard, DL3GA, Andy, DL1IAN, Markus, and DF6IC, Joachim, and will probably use FO/Home calls/A.

Heading for the Caribbean, some Spanish ops hope to put Guadeloupe (NA-102) on the keyboard map with an operation in the CQ WW RTTY Contest but will be active before and after the contest between Sep 23- Oct 9th as FG/EB2DTP, FG/EA2RU and FG/EA2RU. The big operation during the month of September in terms of rarity will be a trip to Annobon island (3C0) by well seasoned traveller Franz, DJ9ZB (3C0F), along with veterans of the last 3C0R DX-pedition Elmo, EA5BYP (3C0A), Victor, EA5FO (3C0R0, and Vicente, EA5YN (3C0V) scheduled for between Sep 27 to Oct 10.

Annobon Island (sometimes called Pagalu Island) is a small volcanic island

covering about 7 square miles and lies about 400 miles from the coastline of Equatorial Guinea to which it belongs and is named because it was discovered on New Year's Day 1472.

With initial plans to do a major operation from a "very rare" Entity in Africa, due to last minute problems with getting a licence, Sigi DL7DF and a large group of mostly German ops will instead head to Myanmar as XY7A for the timeframe Sep 30 to Oct 17th, one wonders what their first intention was !

Moving onto October and the biggie that month, apart from Kure (see below), will be BQ9P heading out once again to Pratas island (AS-110) and if you're the adventurous type, they still need four foreign ops to complete the team!

A team of German ops are heading to the Indian Ocean to activate, first, Christmas island followed by Cocos-Keeling island.

The team consisting of DJ5IW, DM5TI, DL2RMC and DL8LAS plan to be from Christmas as VK9XW from Oct 4-11 before moving onto Cocos-Keeling as VK9CD from Oct 11-23.

Jaak, ES1FB plans to very busy on air in October with plans to return to Cambodia using once again his XU7ACE call from Oct 19-28 before making a side trip to Koh Poah island (AS-133) as XU7ACV from Oct 21-23 and just to keep you on your toes will then go onto Laos where he hopes to use XW1FB from Oct 30 to Nov 4th.

If you miss Jaak on from Cambodia and still need it for a new one, there's good news that UN worker Hugo, LA5YJ, who was QRV from Nepal as 9N7YJ is now on work assignment in Cambodia for the next year and is QRV as XU7ACW.

With the CQ WW SSB Contest coming up in October some groups have announced their intentions to go on DX-peditions to far-flung regions but by far the most ambitious is a group heading to Kure Atoll (OC-020) which lie about 52 miles NW of Midway island (KH4) and consist of two islands, the larger Green island and Sand island.

The group will be led once again by Kimo Chun, KH7U, who also led the last trip to Kure in October 1997 with the snappy call sign K7K. At this point of the cycle it will be a challenge to work them on the higher bands especially as from my location the beam headings are 351 degrees short path and 171 degrees long path respectively so any Solar disturbance at all will block out the "over the Poles" path!

Much easier to work in the contest will be Paul, K1XM, and Charlotte, KQ1F, who will be on from the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology in Tanzania as 5I3A during the timeframe Oct 18-26. Watch out for Joe, VE3BW, to be active from St Kitts (NA-104) as V47CA during the contest as well, also in the Caribbean will be VP5X operating from North Caicos Island (NA-002), part of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Moving onto the Pacific, an Australian group VK4TI, Trent, VK2IR, AJ, VK3FY, Chris and VK3WA, Les are planning to be on from Vanuatu as YJ0X.

Keep a listen out for the call YI2X from Iraq in the various contests as this will be Mike, OM2DX, back once again at work in the Slovak Embassy in Baghdad for the next three years.

The Magnolia DX Association plan an assault on the CQ WW from Suriname (PZ) in South America using the special call PZ5A which apparently will be the first time a one letter suffix has been used from Suriname.

Even though 2003 isn't over yet already one major trip has been announced for 2004 with news that a large group of about 15 International ops will be going to Banaba island (T33) in the Pacific between April 4-16th with the call sign T33C already secured.

Banaba island (OC-018) is one of the many islands belonging to the Republic of Kiribati and the team will have some of the TI9M ops along as well so should be easy to work, more as the date approaches.

Now for something completely different!.

This month on August 27th Mars will be closer to us than any other time in the past 60,000 years so what chance of a "Mars bounce" contact?

Finally you might wonder why you haven't heard the familiar voice of Monk Apollo on from Mount Athos (SV2ASP/A), the reason is that his trusted Icom rig went up in smoke but hams been who they are have already started to make contributions to get Monk Apollo a new rig (obviously he can't buy one as his order in Mt Athos take a strict vow of poverty but "gifts" are allowed hi!)

That's it for this issue, my thanks to the Daily DX, and until next issue keep listening!

73 de Anthony --EI2HY--



VHF/UHF News

With

Joe Fadden EI3IX

2 Meters County Contest (Autumn).

Just to remind all radio experimenters/amateurs that the IRTS 2 meters Counties Contest (Autumn) will be coming up on the 31st of August. This contest will be run between 1400hrs - 1600hrs local time, a big turn out is expected.

4 Meters activity period.

Straight after the Counties Contest finishes at 1600hrs, on the 31st of August we will be having a 4 meters activity period. It will be the same format as the last two years or so, monitor frequency will be 70.2625, all modes, vertical or horizontal polarisation.

For those interested in the yearly IRTS 4 meter Shield this will be a good opportunity to work some new stations and Maidenhead grid squares.

4 Meters activity period, 30th of August.

Rob Mannion (Thats Rob from Practical Wireless) EI5IW/G3XFD plans to put on a 4 meters active period on Saturday the 30th of August. He will be operating from Dorset in the UK, and will be using a 3 or 5 element Yagi.

He is interested in hearing from any EI stations who is interested in taking part.

Anyone interested please e-mail me and I will forward the details, call-sign & grid locator. Rob will be generating a list of participants and fixing a time for the proposed activity.

OZ on 4m

As of the 19th of July 2003, Denmark (OZ) became the latest country to gain access to the 4 Metre/70 MHz band. They have been allocated the 3 spot frequencies of 70.025, 70.050 and 70.100 MHz. The only mode allowed is CW.

Note that these 3 frequencies are below the 4 metre band here in Ireland (EI) which starts at 70.125 MHz.

Outside of the UK and Ireland, Denmark is only the second European country to have issued 4 metre licences. Slovenia (S5) issued their first 4 metre licences back in 1998.

EI-OZ first on 4m

On the 21st of July at 19:17 UTC, John Desmond, EI7GL worked OZ3ZW for the first EI to OZ QSO on 4 metres. EI7GL operated split by transmitting on 70.200 MHz and listening to OZ3ZW on 70.100 MHz. Mode used was CW of course.

Croatia on 4m

It has now been reported that Croatian amateurs will also soon gain access to the 4-metre band. An announcement is to be made in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, and it is expected that the first licences will be issued at the end of September next. The proposed band is 70.000 to 70.450 MHz with Secondary Allocation Status. A number of modes will be permitted at a maximum power of 10 watts ERP.

New 70cm Tropo Distance Record Claimed

On the 31st of July last, Reg G8VHI, worked EB8AYA on 70cm at a distance of 2966 kilometres and Reg is claiming this as a new IARU Region 1 tropo DX record.

The record was made using a TS-2000 transceiver with 100 watt amplifier to two 23-element Yagis.

Squares Table 2003

Callsign	6m	4m	2m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI2JD	245	2	20	1	0	268
EI8JK	199	0	60	1	0	260
EI5FK	100	1	119	31	0	251
EI3IX	164	2	7	2	0	175
EI3IO	158	5	1	1	0	165
EI7IX	151	1	1	0	0	153
EI2IV	0	0	42	0	0	42
EI7GL	5	1	7	2	0	15
EI7FAB	3	3	7	2	0	15
EI3EBB	2	0	6	0	0	8
EI7BMB	6	0	0	0	0	6

New entries and updates for 2003 to
Joe EI3IX joe_fadden@yahoo.com

EI8IC's Global Overlay Mapper

The most comprehensive set of world prefix maps ever is now freely available in the demo version of EI8IC's Global Overlay Mapper, just released.

Representing a new concept in the field of Ham Maps, the Global Overlay Mapping System is packed full of features for all Ham Radio enthusiasts, including :

7 Continental Maps and 27 Sub Continental Maps, each with background, 12 active layers, and custom Scalebar. Single Click Navigation for easy loading.

Country Outlines, CQ, ITU & Time Zones, Colour Relief Map, Grid Locator & Lat/Lon meshes, 100s of Region Names, 2204 Major Cities, and the latest Prefix and Flag Information.

Special Feature for IOTA enthusiasts - the Global Overlay Mapper is the first mapping system to feature IOTA maps of all areas.

Real-Time Mouse Tracking, with continuous Positional and Grid-Locator information, customised to your location, for instant Beam Headings and Distance Display.

Comprehensive multi-page Help System and Information Guide. Online demo-version, with two fully featured maps to view. Online purchasing, in 4 major currencies, for only 0-59c per map.

For further details, visit <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/>

Galway Radio Experimenters Club involved in World Record By Richard Glynn EI5GC



Two new world records were set on Monday 11 August 2003 when a model aircraft landed in Mannin Beach, Clifden, Co. Galway after taking off from St. John's Newfoundland. It flew a total of 1888 miles over a period of 38.75 hours.

The model plane was built by retired NASA engineer Maynard Hill. The aircraft called The Spirit of Butt's Farm left Cape Spear on Saturday August 9 and landed 38.75 hours later. The ultra light 11lb model plane equipped with a 10cc engine completed the flight using just under one gallon of fuel. The plane had a built in GPS transmitter which bounced messages off constellation of satellites in order to keep the team up to date.

In early 2002, the Galway Radio Experimenters Club were contacted by Maynard and his team to help with the record attempt. After launching three unsuccessful planes in August 2002, the team decided to end the attempt and retry in the August 2003.

Equipped with five models, Maynard and the team began the long journey to Newfoundland. As all previous attempts ended in failure the team were prepared to go home without a victory.

TAM (Transatlantic Model) 4 was the first to be launched in 2003. After travelling only a short distance, it lost communication with the GPS system. Spirits were down but the team's confidence launched TAM 5.

Every hour of the journey the team received data from the plane. This data was crucial for the successful landing on Mannin Beach.

The plane was contacted using on-site antennas set up by the GRC and information such as speed, height, and distance were passed on to the pilot Dave Brown. Using this information Mr. Brown landed the plane within 35 feet of the designated landing spot.

The plane began to transmit encrypted messages within 25 miles of the Irish coast. Using a directional antenna connected to a Laptop this information was decoded and passed on.

The Galway Radio Club was critical to the successful landing of the model plane. Once the plane landed, its position was recorded using GPS. It was weighed and the remaining fuel was extracted. There was just under 2 ounces of fuel left which could of kept the plane over head for approx. 45 mins – 1 Hour.

Maynard has submitted two records to the FAI.

One record for distance by a model plane and the other for duration of flight. These achievements will become World Records when the FAI obtains suitable evidence.

Shannon Basin Radio Club Challenge.

The Shannon Basin Radio club is running a one day Open, Fixed, Challenge for EI residents. This challenge is open to all licensed operators and short wave listeners, and will be held annually on the First Sunday of November. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage radio operators and short wave listeners to be active on the H. F bands.

The challenge will have three modes of operation, and the winner in each mode will be awarded with the following.

- The **Lough Allen Shield** will be awarded to the highest score in SSB.
- The **Lough Ree Shield** will be awarded to the highest score in CW (A1A).
- The **Lough Derg Shield** will be awarded to the highest score for SWL.
- The above winners will also receive a personal trophy.

To receive a copy of the rules for the above challenge, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the contest manager,
Noel Mulvihill EI6HW,
Hillquarter,
Coosan,
Athlone,
Co Westmeath
or e-mail nfmulvihill@eircom.net.

N.B. Persons intending to compete must send notification 10-days prior to the contest date, so get a copy of the rules early.

Noel EI6HW,
Contest Manager

Power Line Transmission

Recent newspaper reports have indicated that the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has requested the ESB to undertake experiments with Power Line Transmission to facilitate the delivery of broadband Internet access to rural areas. The ESB has agreed to the Minister's request and initial experiments are scheduled to commence in Tuam, Co. Galway and Port Laoise this Autumn.

In theory, the use of ESB power lines to facilitate Internet access is a logical development offering additional utilisation of existing infrastructure and the possibility of cheaper Internet access – particularly for those in rural areas. Unfortunately, experience in other countries has indicated that the price to be paid for Power Line Transmission (PLT) is an increase in the amount of interference faced by broadcasters – particularly the amateur community. Following the announcement of the ESB experiments, IRTS approached ComReg to express apprehension and concern at what was seen as an unwelcome development. ComReg responded that its officers would be monitoring the experiments and would be conscious of the potential for interference. IRTS further requested that members of the Society be allowed to undertake independent monitoring of the experiments and this was agreed to.

Theory Test Problems!

Students around the country who have completed the Theory Course have found that they are unable to sit the Theory Exam, as none have been scheduled. This problem has arisen because the Marine Radio Surveyors, who have traditionally managed the Theory Exams have taken a decision to withdraw from that function. The Commission for Communication Regulation which is ultimately responsible for ensuring the availability of tests has requested the IRTS to take over the responsibility for setting and running Theory Tests in the future. IRTS has agreed to this request in principle but is unwilling to implement the new arrangements until certain liability and financial commitments are received from ComReg. In the meantime, students who wish to sit a Theory Test are unable to do so!

Following representations from IRTS, ComReg has agreed that a Theory Test under the old syllabus will be set and run by an independent party in the Autumn.

This Test will take place in Dublin on a date and time to be arranged. Full details will be carried in the Radio News and in the next issue of Echo Ireland.

Unfortunately, this exam is likely to be a "once off".

Subject to satisfactory completion of the discussions with ComReg, IRTS should be in a position to undertake the running of the Theory Exams sometime in 2004.

Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #25 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 10 May to 31 July 2003.

Unfortunately a lot of information was lost because of the Bugbear virus and Hooker Trojan Horse worm attacks on my p.c. in mid-June.

I can report that small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from ARA Azores, EDR, JARL, the LABRE divisions for Belo Horizonte, Fortaleza and São Francisco, RCC Chile, SARS Singapore, TA3J, and UA9X-buro.

Keeping up the volume, larger parcels came from ARRL, Box 599 Moscow, HRS Croatia, NNRL Norway, and UARL Ukraine (1 – 2 kilos).

FISTS USA

FISTS Number 10,000

KN0WCW

USA Club Call of FISTS CW Club
Headquarters: PO BOX 47, Hadley MI 48440

Radio	Date	UTC	MHz	2-X	RST	Power	QSL
1	09.03.03	2042	14.0	CW	579	100 W	Trx Pse

While sorting the cards still very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50 and 144MHz with USA and eastern Europe.

As well as cards from the many Croatian, Japanese, Norwegian and Ukrainian islands, for IOTA chasers the following were noticed and thought worthy of special mention:

CU6/LA4XFA, EM1KCC, JF3BFS, JI5USJ/4, JA5IU, JA5VWI, JR6EA, JR6RVG, JW5RIA (EU-027), JW5RIA Hopen Island (EU-063), OJ0/LA5UKA/p, and OY6FRA.

With regard to the QSL from club station KN0WCW, I could not resist showing the card – see picture.

Congratulations to all recipients.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.



Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

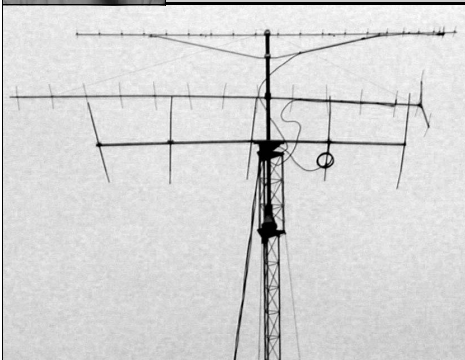
Members of the Dundalk Club with the trophies won during 2002

EI5GG, GI4SZW, EI2JD, MI3SBI, EI5DA, EI2HX, MI3WBL



A break from VHF

By Charles Coughlan EI5FK



Unlike Ger EI8HT, who some time earlier this year while in the Argana hotel in Agidir, was getting ideas for his excellent regular news articles, I was "up the road" Ger in the Agidir Beach club and I can tell you it was the last thing in my mind, so this article had to wait until I came home to Cork. No offence Ger and keep up the good work on 50MHz. (couldn't resist the temptation).

At the end of last year a chap commented to me, that I had a great take off on VHF and this was probably the reason that I got fairly good results on 144/432 MHz.

I never mentioned that one of my best contacts on 432 MHz was from my last QTH to Switzerland way back in September 1988 with HB9MIN/P in JN37EE.

I was located on the north west side of the Airport hill in Cork at 90 feet A.S.L., beaming directly into that hill which was 400 feet higher than where I was located. I was using 50 watts to a 21 element Tonna, ok there was 5 degrees of elevation in the antenna but the contact was still made.



I decided to put this new contraption that my brother in law and I built over the previous 6 months to use on the HF bands and give it a bit of use.

Homebrew trailer mast

This unit consists of a custom built trailer taking a 60 foot, 3 section tele-

scopic tower that I picked up for 100 pounds a few years previously. The tower tilts over, pivoted on a stub mast fixed on a plate welded on the trailer, the whole lot was galvanised minus the mast, 2 winches were fitted and rigged out, the mast tilts over into a cradle and allows aerial work to be done. The top of the mast had to be modified and a cage made to take my Ham 4 rotator.

After galvanising this was bolted to the top of the mast, the rotator fitted, a 2" heavy wall stub mast put in position and the mast erected.

Back in my early days as a ham in the mid 80's I did a bit of horse trading with another Cork ham, John Coakley EI5FC and part exchanged a 13 foot speed boat + 40hp outboard for a 3 element Mosley TA-33 senior Triband beam and a Ham 4 rotator.

He had been using this vertically positioned in his back garden on the HF bands!

It originally all belonged to Tony EI2CV and was well used by the time I got hold of it. I had it in storage for many years, often thrown in the back garden under weeds etc and what surprised me was how well it worked when erected.

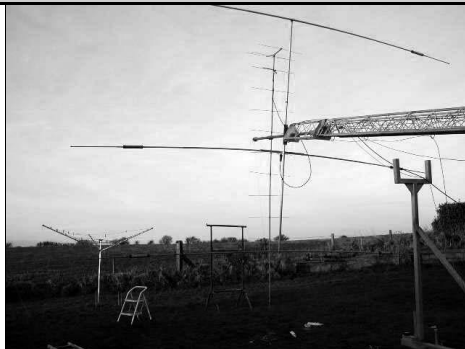
I will describe the building of this trailer at another stage but suffice to say it was needed to take various VHF/HF antennae that were strewn all over the roof of this house.

I was lucky that when the mast was tilted over in the horizontal position the reflector of the beam just rested on the ground. The stub mast had a purpose made bracket already welded to it to take the boom of the beam which was then bolted into position.

I fixed the driven element and reflector, raised the mast, rotated the antenna 180 degrees, dropped it again, fitted the driven element, bench balun and new Westflex 103 coax cable and raised the mast into position.

The beam worked perfectly straight away with no adjustments needed.

On HF I use an FT-847 and a Bencher Morse key. I use no amplifier and that's supposed to be a disadvantage, well as I discovered on VHF this is not a disaster as I worked about 99% of what I wanted



to work anyway.

I immediately discovered that pile up's were the order of the day with no difficulty and many hams telling me I was the first EI they had ever worked.

In the mornings VK/ZL/JA were easy to work once solar conditions were ok and in the afternoons and evenings W6/W7 and for that matter anything you wanted to work within reason was possible.



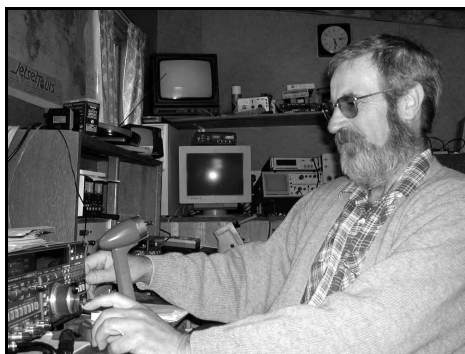
We are on the downward side of the solar cycle and again I missed the peak as was concentrating on VHF especially 50 MHz.

The EI net on 21.317 MHz was anticipated eagerly on Sundays though stations in the Cork area were very scarce, I did hear EI7BA a few Sundays on that net.

Great sport was had on Saint Patrick's Day as ComReg issued me with a special call for that event, EI7SPD.

429 QSO's were made in 48 DXCC entities in poor conditions especially on the 17th March, the licence being issued to me from March 15th to March 17th.

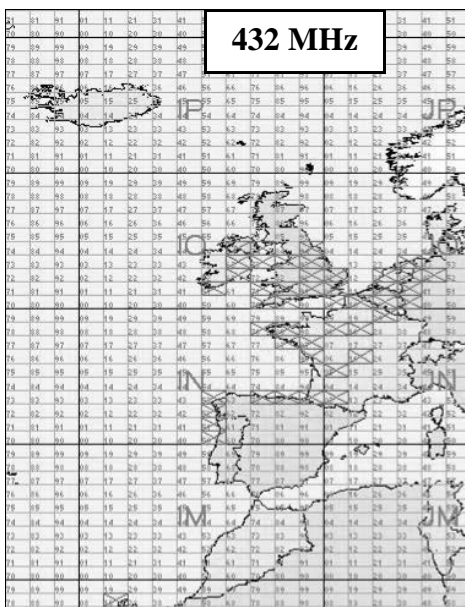
(Continued on page 13)



Tony EI8JK in the shack

(Continued from page 12)

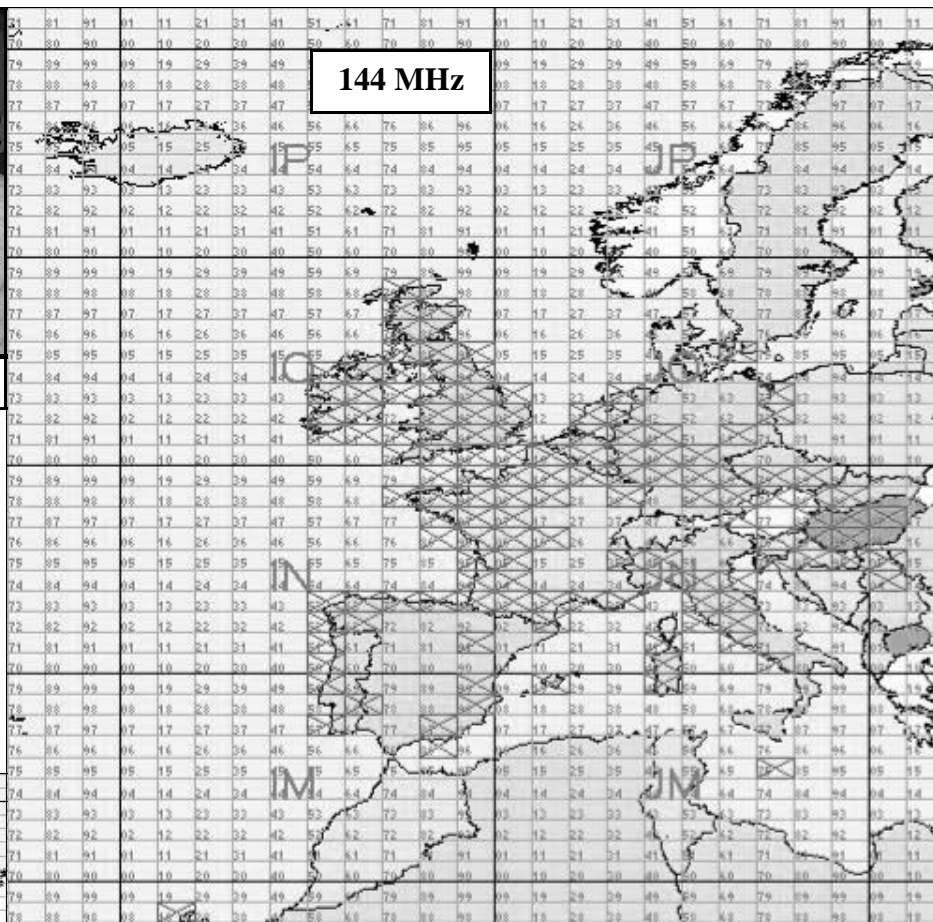
The table on page 14 shows what I managed to work on 10/15/20 over the few months I was QRV on HF until the Sporadic E season arrived on VHF & the TA-33 was taken down to make way for a 13 element on 144MHz, a 5 element on 50MHz and later on a 21 element on 70cms.



For logging purposes I use Winlog32 by Colin G0CUZ and find this to be excellent. I export my log as an ADIF file and use VQLOG to generate maps and create statistics. Winlog32 is free though it can be registered for a small fee. VQLOG is essential for VHF and costs about \$15 to register.

Some words on the VHF bands.

First of all let me congratulate **Tony EI8JK** ex EI2FSB who on 1296 MHz worked 2 stations in Spain and a number in France to bring his tally to 5 squares over a 2 or 3 day period in August. Tony's homemade 39 element DL6WU antenna was no more than 15 feet over the ground and he has 10 watts avail-

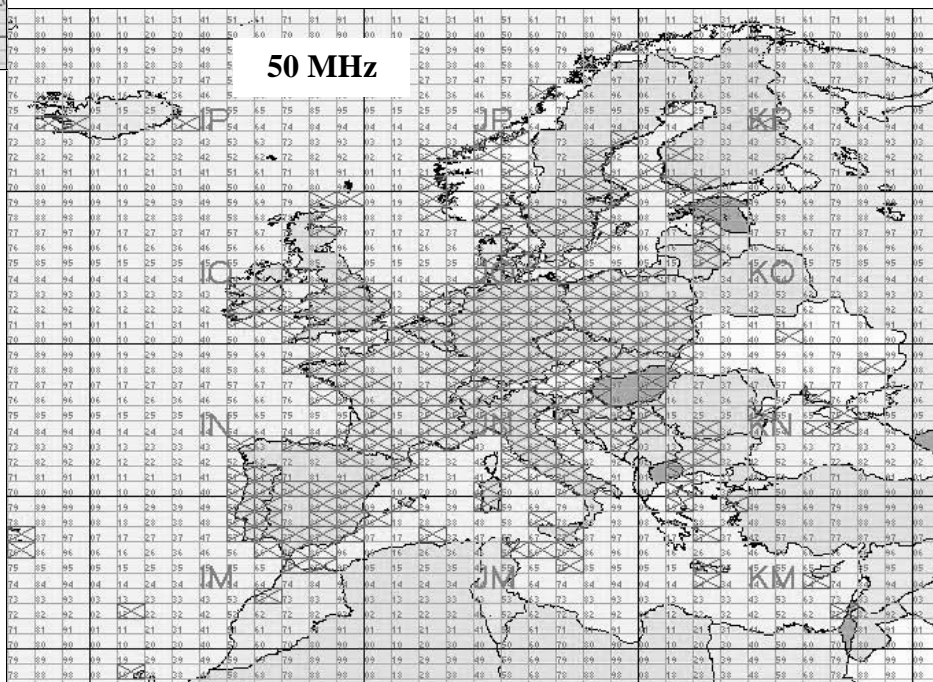


able. As far as I aware, this is the first time EA has been worked on 23cms. I remember a number of French stations in the past working France on that band and it is possible that EI9Q did the same.

It has been a year when many EI's have been either getting back into 144MHz SSB or trying it out for the first time in numbers that I have not experienced before. A few are listed below; EI9V Con in Dublin with an IC-910 and

a 5 element Yagi; EI2IV James Cork with a TS-711e and a homebrew 5 element Quagi, EI7IR Paraic with an IC-70611g EI2JD Thos 100w and a 10 element, EI7BMB Tony using a transverter and an IC-756pro EI8HT Ger using 100w and a homebrew quad.

I wonder if it is about time that the Counties contest had an SSB section included as the amount of EI's with 144



(Continued from page 13)

MHz equipment is large indeed with the use of rigs like the IC-706 being very popular these days.

Another issue here is the implementation of a annual VHF award.

A few people seeking to do well in the 50MHz section rarely venture off this band and an award covering all the VHF/UHF/Microwave bands would seem to be fairer, surely one of the present VHF awards, say the 70MHz one could be allocated here, just a thought!

The 3 maps on the previous page show (give away) what I have worked on VHF in Europe this year only to late August and will give an idea to people who might be interested in these bands what can be worked from January to August in a given year.

144 MHz is my primary band and 29 DXCC countries have been worked so far this year including 9A, 9H, CT, DL, EA, EA6, EA8, EI, F, G, GD, GI, GM, GU, GW, HA, I, IS, OE, OK, OM, ON, OZ, PA, S5, SP, T9, TK & YU all using 50-150watts and a 13 element Yagi.

50MHz The list for this band is quite extensive and a good few EI's are active here working modes like Tropo, Sporadic E & Aurora for starters.

I am sure my list pales into insignificance when compared to stations that run QRO on this band, then again I use just 100 watts to a small 5 element Yagi on a 12 ft boom, I heard Anthony EI2HY locally doing very well using a vertical on 50MHz during the early summer.

Contacts made on 432MHz have been made since the end of June as I did not have an antenna in place.

Conditions on that band have been particularly good.

I noticed a big drop off at the end of the 1980's when 50MHz became very popular, 144/432 MHz took a hammering and I am glad see that a good recovery has been made.

To work any great distance on 70cms it is necessary to have your antenna system about the same length as your 144 MHz array.

I have about 20m Westflex here with no mast-head preamp but notice that it does not significantly degrade performance.

13 DXCC countries including CT, DL, EA, EA8, EI, F, G, GD, GI, GM, GW, ON, PA have all been worked via Tropospheric propagation .

Charles Coughlan, EI5FK
<http://www.qsl.net/ei5fk/>

3B8MM	30/03/2003	10:57	HR1MG	15/01/2003	18:34
3B9FR	19/01/2003	14:20	E21EJC	03/04/2003	17:25
3DA0TM	01/02/2003	12:48	IY4W	18/01/2003	09:49
3V8ST	01/02/2003	16:06	J2RDOL	18/01/2003	08:22
3XY1L	03/04/2003	19:34	J3/DJ7RJ	02/02/2003	12:38
4K6SAA	25/01/2003	10:26	J5UCW	14/03/2003	19:27
4L4MM	14/02/2003	10:35	J6/WA1PCJ	06/02/2003	19:37
4X4FJ	31/01/2003	21:32	J79AK	13/01/2003	19:31
5B4/RW4WR	28/03/2003	18:29	JA7BSV	18/01/2003	08:11
5H9KR	11/04/2003	18:53	JT1BG	02/02/2003	11:38
5N6NDP/9	30/03/2003	20:37	JW7VK	19/01/2003	10:15
5R8GT	30/03/2003	13:56	JY4NE	29/03/2003	15:44
5U7JB	29/03/2003	23:59	AB4KN	11/01/2003	16:40
5X1DC	15/02/2003	13:23	KH6FKG	15/02/2003	09:03
5Z4JW	16/03/2003	17:51	LU9HZM	12/01/2003	15:00
6W/F5VHQ	24/04/2003	18:11	OD5NH	19/01/2003	14:42
7X2LS	30/01/2003	17:51	OE1M	26/04/2003	20:15
8P2K	30/03/2003	19:10	OH3GZ	15/02/2003	09:20
8Q7VR	26/02/2003	20:01	OH0B	28/03/2003	18:20
8RIE	08/04/2003	19:34	OK1BNS	18/01/2003	09:00
9A5JR/P	07/04/2003	18:47	OY9JD	08/04/2003	20:25
9G5MD	26/03/2003	18:33	OZ0JX	15/02/2003	15:46
9H1ET	8/01/2003	00:00	P40RH	28/01/2003	20:30
9K2YM	13/04/2003	12:07	PI5VPO	02/02/2003	11:43
9L1BTB	20/01/2003	00:26	PY2ANH	12/01/2003	14:38
9M2RPN	29/03/2003	16:53	PY0FF	30/03/2003	00:56
9S1X	29/03/2003	21:37	ZY0T	18/02/2003	18:50
9V1UV	04/04/2003	16:54	S92UN	11/05/2003	15:47
9Y/IV3IYH	10/02/2003	18:35	SB7OOJ	01/04/2003	19:56
A45WD	30/03/2003	13:39	HF7OI	14/02/2003	10:25
A61AJ	29/03/2003	15:50	ST0RY	23/03/2003	15:17
AP2IA	09/02/2003	12:36	SU1SK	19/01/2003	14:07
C33CT	14/03/2003	20:21	SV1DZB	30/03/2003	07:43
C5P	30/03/2003	00:09	SV9FBG	06/04/2003	17:59
C6AGN	31/01/2003	18:05	T77C	31/03/2003	20:40
C98RF	27/02/2003	20:16	T99A	19/01/2003	12:00
CE6M	16/01/2003	00:38	TA2RC/M	19/01/2003	14:17
CE0ZIS	31/01/2003	19:00	TG9NX	08/03/2003	15:20
R1ANF/P	21/02/2003	20:58	T12ERS	25/01/2003	16:14
CM8WAL	16/02/2003	15:10	TR8SA	16/02/2003	08:03
CN8IC	18/03/2003	23:46	TU2CI	30/03/2003	17:21
CP6XE	07/03/2003	22:02	RZ1OA/P	26/01/2003	00:45
CT3CD	18/01/2003	09:30	UN8GU	15/03/2003	11:48
CU1CB	16/02/2003	09:09	UR4EY	18/01/2003	10:08
CX2DAE	12/01/2003	14:54	V31DK	18/02/2003	18:20
D2GG	06/04/2003	07:35	V47NM	27/03/2003	19:57
D44TT	19/02/2003	21:16	V51KC	23/03/2003	19:11
DL6JFT	18/01/2003	08:42	VO1JK	11/01/2003	16:49
DU6BG	15/02/2003	09:04	VK4DMP	18/01/2003	08:58
EA5KB/P	30/01/2003	17:43	VP5/WX3B	14/02/2003	13:22
EA8WF	09/02/2003	13:32	VP6DIA	10/03/2003	17:31
EI/DH5ST/P	12/01/2003	15:20	VP8ML	07/03/2003	19:20
EP3SMH	06/04/2003	15:06	VU2RMS	01/02/2003	10:28
ER60SB	02/02/2003	12:56	XF1K	07/02/2003	19:14
ES7NY/0	10/03/2003	19:00	XT2ATI	08/02/2003	08:04
EX8NP	22/01/2003	18:20	XY4QK	03/04/2003	19:18
EZ8AQ	12/04/2003	12:46	YC2FMR	09/02/2003	12:56
TO3M	30/03/2003	18:51	YN9HAU	26/01/2003	20:15
FGFC	16/03/2003	13:35	YS1/K9ULW	23/03/2003	19:53
FM5FJ	23/02/2003	13:28	YU8/9X0A	25/01/2003	09:39
G3VZT	18/01/2003	10:35	YV3EHD	19/01/2003	17:53
GD4PTV	22/02/2003	17:50	Z22JE	06/03/2003	19:47
GI0TIC	13/01/2003	18:59	Z35G	29/03/2003	15:52
GM0PYC	16/02/2003	11:22	ZA/Z35M	20/01/2003	00:20
MU0FAL	28/07/2003	15:18	ZB3D	13/04/2003	19:15
GW4TOU	08/04/2003	20:36	ZC4DW	30/03/2003	12:48
HB9ASQ	14/04/2003	19:33	ZF2AH	26/03/2003	17:41
HC2FN	05/04/2003	20:46	ZK2GI	25/01/2003	11:26
HC8N	25/03/2003	18:14	ZL3JU	18/01/2003	09:40
HH6/DL7CM	03/02/2003	17:23	ZP40Z	30/03/2003	20:40
HI5AU	16/01/2003	20:24	ZS5DCF	20/03/2003	18:18
HK4PZK	22/01/2003	17:52			
HL2DBP	18/01/2003	08:55			
HP/F5PAC	27/02/2003	18:44			

Friedrichshafen Rally 2003



EI Experimenters pictured at the Friedrichshafen Rally in Southern Germany in late June this year.

Top Left: Dave EI4BZ; Bruno EI9EQB, Willie EI6AI, Jim EI8GS and Aengus EI4ABB.

Top Right: Ronan EI8HJ

Middle left: Pat EI2HX and Aidan EI6HG

Middle right: Gavin O'Hanlon with Garry EI3EVB.

Left: Sean EI2CR and Jimmy EI5GG.

Other EIs who were seen but not caught on camera included Gerry EI9DZ, Sean EI7CV and Raymond EI9DM and XYL Rosemary.

World Radio Conference - Geneva 2003

A number of important issues for radio amateurs were under discussion at the conference, notably the 7 MHz allocation and the Morse Code requirement.

The outcome of the 7 MHz discussion was ultimately favourable to the amateur service. It resulted in an extra 100 kHz at 7.1 to 7.2 MHz effective from March 2009.

This will be shared with the fixed and mobile service in Region 3 of the ITU but not in the European Region.

For us this effectively means an exclusive allocation of 7.0 to 7.2 MHz.

Region 3 of the ITU will remain unchanged with an exclusive amateur allocation of 7.0 to 7.3 MHz. An already agreed agenda item for

WARC 2007 may present a further opportunity to look again at the 7.2 to 7.3 position. Some, however, would feel that it would be best to leave the 7 MHz allocation stand and look at the possibility of a new 100 kHz band elsewhere, possibly in the 5 MHz region. The requirement for a knowledge of sending and receiving Morse

code as a condition of obtaining an amateur licence for the bands below 30 MHz has been deleted from the ITU Radio Regulations with effect from the signing of the final acts of the conference. It will be a matter for individual administrations to decide whether or not CW will be required by them for the future.

Club Roundup

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group



Members of Tipperary Amateur Radio Group who took part in the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day Operating EI7T/P from the summit of Sleivenamon.

From left: John EI2JB, Paul EI3ENB, John EI6FOB, Tommy EI2IT, Andy EI5JF and Robert EI1485.

South Dublin Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club is delighted to note that two of its members have received "A" call signs recently. They are Tony Byrne formerly EI9FLB, who now has the call EI7JN, and Kyle O'Connell who has upgraded from EI9FGB to EI2JO. Congratulations to both, and we look forward to working them on the HF bands.

Silent Key Sale

On Tuesday 1st July, the radio equipment owned by the late John Kearns EI8DE was sold at the weekly meeting of South Dublin Radio Club.

John Kearns was interested in many different aspects of radio, including HF DXing and satellite operation, so there was a wide range of HF and VHF equipment on offer. The sale was well attended by SDR members and visitors, and everything was sold. Sean EI4GK, Declan EI9HQ and Joe EI7GY - who organised the sale on behalf of the Kearns family - would like to record their appreciation to South Dublin Radio Club for their assistance in arranging the sale.

The club, together with members of our sister club GEARS, made the trip to Inishboffin Island for the IOTA Contest. Despite some technical problems with the computers, a good time was had by all and a good score was achieved. Two stations from SDR are planned for the SSB Field Day on the first weekend in September.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network plan to establish a HF net on Sunday afternoons at 12.30 on 3.670 MHz SSB. This will get as many members as possible on the air and promote eighty metre activity within the county.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9 p.m. upstairs in the Meeting Room at Stenson's Lounge, Ballyvary, Co Mayo, on the N5. Visitors are always welcome.

Limerick Radio Club Activate Tarbert Lighthouse



Tarbert Lighthouse was activated by members of Limerick Radio Club for International lighthouse weekend, August 16/17th.

Over 500 QSOs were made from two stations using the callsign EI4TLH.

In the picture,
Back row- Howard EI5EG,
John EI5FOB, Paul EI6FE,
Mike EI2IX.

Front row-Eamon EI5GA, John EI6IW and Brendan EI0CZ.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The 2 metre voice repeater EI2WRC at Mt. Leinster will be off air for the next couple of weeks for essential maintenance and upgrade. In the meantime, the IRTS Radio news from Waterford each Tuesday night will be read on 145.575 MHz. Updates will be announced in coming weeks.

The EI2WRB Beacon is operational from Donnell's Hill, Portlaw, Co. Waterford. It was set up on Sunday the 20th of July last. It can be heard on 144.403 MHz.

The UHF frequency 432.870 is not yet operational.

Reports are welcome to searg@angelfire.com or to John EI8JA at QTHR.

At the last meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group, the club was treated to an Amateur Television demonstration by Jim EI8IG who showed video footage of the latest ATV tests as well as showing the visitors to the meeting a portable ATV station and antennas. John EI7IG demonstrated broadband wireless networking and spoke about plans by the Waterford WAN group. He also showed some of the equipment and antennas available for wireless networking.

Cork Radio Club

The following Cork Radio Club members provided a demonstration on amateur radio for approx. 300 scouts at Fota island Cork on Thursday 26 June and Friday 27 June.

John EI2GN, Chuck EI4IS, Anatolij EI4JF, Jeremy EI5GM. Also participating was a visitor from the USA Daniel W1PO. The Cork radio club would like to thank all stations who participated in this event, a special thanks to Hugh EI2HI for providing a memorable QSO for a large number of scouts.

The Club also took part in VHF/UHF Field day from Crosshaven and will also be active in the upcoming SSB Field Day. Meetings on Monday nights in Wilton Park House, Cork City

Free DXpedition/Contest vacation for a young Ham

VP5X - Turks & Caicos Islands

The **VP5X Contest Group** will participate in **CQ WW CW 2003** (M/S entry). We will be operating from the La Villa Rose rental QTH in Whitby on North Caicos Island, TCI.

The international team now has four operators: David, **KY1V**; Kyle, **WA4PGM**; Kari, **OH3RB**; Juha, **OH9MM**.

This year we are sponsoring one young ham operator (18 or under) whom can copy 20+ WPM CW to receive an all expense paid trip (one full week) to operate in the **CQ WW CW Contest** with our team.

You may be from any country in the world to be considered for this opportunity provided you hold a valid license, can copy 20+ wpm CW and can write an essay in English.

This is a gift to a young ham with a passion for CW and contesting. It is a way of giving something back to this great hobby that has given so much to all of us!

To qualify, you must send an email to **david @ vp5x.com** (spaces inserted to prevent spam) containing an essay of 500 words or more describing how you got started in ham radio, describe your Elmer, and explain why you should be selected for this multi-single contest operation at **VP5X**.

You must have your parent's written permission to make the trip on your own, or they may join you, at their own expense.

We will continue to take applications for the young ham to join our expedition until **September 15, 2003**.

Our team will review all applicants for the young ham position and select one young ham to join us for this exciting DXpedition and contest opportunity.

David, **KY1V/VP5X**, will pay all expenses for the young ham, including airfare, license fees, QTH rental share and food.

The rest of the **VP5X** crew will ensure this is the most memorable ham radio experience ever!

The selection process will be based upon the hams written essay of 500 words or more describing how the ham got started in amateur radio, describe the ham's Elmer (the person helping the ham get started in amateur radio) and why the ham should be

selected for this exciting contest expedition.

The young ham **MUST** be able to demonstrate proficiency in international Morse code at the rate of 20 wpm or more.

We are particularly looking for a young ham that has never been on any DX expedition and would not otherwise have the opportunity under any other circumstances.

More information about this DX contest operation can be found at <http://www.vp5x.com/> or email **david @ vp5x.com** (spaces inserted to prevent spam)

73,

David, **KY1V**, **VP5X**, Kyle, **WA4PGM**, Kari, **OH3RB**
Juha, **OH9MM**

Contest Calendar

September 2003

6/7th	1300-1300	IARU Region 1 Field Day	SSB
6/7th	0000-2359	All Asian DX Contest	SSB
13/14th	0000-2359	Worked All Europe	SSB
20/21st	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
27/28th	0000-2359	CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest	RTTY
27/28th	1200-1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB

October 2003

4/5th	0800-0800	Oceania DX Contest	SSB
4th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	SSB
10th	0001-2359	10-10 International Day Sprint	All
11/12th	0800-0800	Oceania DX Contest	CW
11th	1500-1859	EU Autumn Sprint	CW
18/19th	1500-1459	Worked All Germany Contest	CW/SSB
25/26th	0000-2359	CQ WW DX Contest	SSB

November 2003

1/2nd	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
8/9th	0000-2359	Worked All Europe DX Contest	RTTY
8/9th	0700-1300	Japan International DX Contest	SSB
8/9	1200-1200	OK/OM DX Contest	CW
15/16th	1600-0700	All Austrian DX Contest 160m	CW
16/17th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
21st	1600-2200	YO International PSK31 Contest	PSK31
29/30th	0000-2359	CQ WW DX Contest	CW

December 2003

5/7th	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
6/7th	1800-1800	TOPS Activity Contest 80m	CW
13/14th	0000-2359	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/SSB
19th	2100-2300	Russian 160m Contest	CW/SSB
20th	0000-2359	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
20/21st	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
20/21st	1600-1600	International Naval Activity	CW/SSB
27th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW
27/28th	1500-1500	Stew Perry 160m Distance Challenge	CWL

Amateur Radio Operators in East Bay invite public

The Oakland Tribune newspaper of Oakland, California carried the above headline in its issue of Friday, June 27th, 2003. The text which followed illustrates the relaxed relationship that exists between Radio Amateurs in the US and the general public there:-

Staff Writer.

Friday, June 27, 2003 – Area amateur radio operators, known as HAMS, are hosting Field Days nationwide this weekend to practice emergency communication skills.

Annual Field Days have prepared HAMS for major disasters and emergencies for more than 70 years, organizers say. Field Days also are contests challenging HAMS to make as many contacts as possible with other HAMS from all over the world.

In the East Bay:

- The Alameda Radio Club is inviting the public to Field Day 2003 on Saturday.

This year the Alameda Radio Club has taken up the challenge of transmitting at only 5 watts. Operations will be made in voice, Morse Code, satellite, and other digital forms of communication.

Club members will be at 522 West Midway at Alameda Point between noon and 5 p.m.

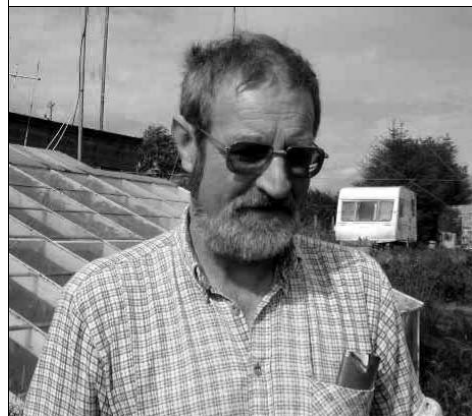
For more information, call Al or Fran Sweet at 523-2096. More information can be obtained about HAM radio at the Alameda Radio Club Web site, <http://www.archam.org> and at the American Radio Relay League Web site <http://www.arrl.org>

- In Oakland, the Oakland Radio Communication Association's Field Day will be at the Oakland Emergency Operations Center, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and the Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller Park, from 11 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday.

The public is invited. For more information, contact Jim Tiemstra at 569-6963 or (925) 941-3269.

- In Berkeley, NALCO (Northern Alameda County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) will be participating in an emergency preparedness test from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Berkeley's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. For more information call Ron Jacobs at 525-0212

New QSL Outwards Manager



Tony Baldwin EI8JK has accepted the job of outgoing QSL Manager with immediate effect.

Our thanks to Tony for offering his services to the EI Amateur Community for this most important of jobs.

As Tony lives in West Cork, it is important that cards for the bureau are mailed directly to his home address.

Cards mailed to P.O. Box 462 will have to be re-mailed to Tony and will add greatly to the cost of running the bureau.

Mail your cards to:
Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin, Kilcrohane,
Co. Cork.
ei8jk@amsat.org

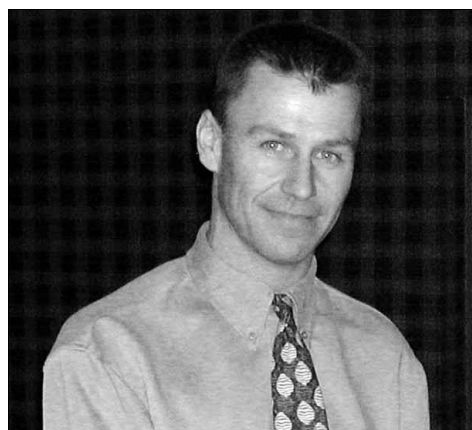


Distant Friends

The Annual grand meeting of Japan Amateur Radio League, Niigata branch, was held on 19-20/July.

Kohei JR0BAQ/EI8JC made a presentation on amateur radio in Ireland. Kohei was based in Dublin for some time and was an active contester with the EI4GK IOTA group.

In the picture, at the bottom right, you can see Kohei's daughter Momoka waving the Irish Tricolour.



Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI

Our thanks to Hugh who operated the outgoing bureau for the past three years. Hugh is a very active amateur especially on the VHF/UHF bands.

We hope he will have more time now to increase his DXCC score.

75th Anniversary Celebration of the First Transatlantic Television Transmissions

By Ted Hardy

Narrow band television signals were transmitted in the 15 metre amateur band in January and February this year, the last transmissions being on the 8th and 9th of February, these being the days of the original transmissions by Baird in 1928.

Planning for the event began in January last year, the first stage being an open discussion at the 2002 NBTVA convention.

From April to September transmitting and receiving gear capable of maintaining good communications with the USA was acquired, suitable TV modulation and demodulation circuits were developed and suitable transmitting and receiving sites were being considered.

Amberley Working Museum near Arundel in Sussex has a vintage radio section, an amateur radio transmitting group, a westward facing location for aerials and warm dry accommodation for us and the equipment.

A visit to the site in September started the next stage of the event. The aerials on site were not very suitable for our purpose but one of the museum radio amateurs suggested making our own aerial.

The chalk cliff face to the east of the site gave us a 90 foot high support for the



Ted Hardy G3GMZ and Vic Brown G3SDQ setting up the Aerial Tuning Unit in the White Pit at the Amberley Museum

established with WA2IKS in New York State on 20 metres and again a week later from Amberley.

Neither location gave very good signal strengths and so we decided to change to the 15 metre band. WA2IKS was unable to provide the reception facilities we needed but put us in touch with K2MB, curator of the Antique Wireless Association museum in the New York area. The following week we made contact with both WA2IKS and K2MP at the same time. The 15 metre signals were, on average, 10dBs stronger than 20 metres.

We were now starting the fourth stage of the event. K2MP proved to be the right man in the right place at the right time, he was familiar with antique TV, he had amateur radio, test gear and computer facilities and was available for radio contact at the right times.

He also had contacts through his museum for publicity and could send e-mail .wav files of pictures he had received, to us, by the following morning. A replica 30-line disc monitor, set-up instructions, receiver detector circuit modifications and a test waveform generator were sent out to him about the middle of January.

We now had all our equipment up and running at Amberley. Towards the end of January we were getting promising reports of picture reception and went to Amberley on the 30th expecting to get good results but the band was dead; no signals heard either end after more than an hour of calling and listening.

An exchange of e-mail that evening con-

firmed that propagation was just bad that day. We decided to try again on the following Monday and found that signals were back to normal and so we tried again on Thursday. This was our last contact before the anniversary dates and resulted in the first .wav files from K2MP giving good pictures on our displays over here.

Two days later we were again at Amberley for the fifth stage, the anniversary celebrations.

Both days gave reasonable results, on Saturday the 8th signal strengths were good but adjacent channel interference was high. On Sunday the 9th signals were not quite as strong but interference and noise level were less.

Final results which should include still photos, floppy discs, VHS video tape and CD recordings of .wav files could be some time coming in, the extent of publicity is not yet known, technical appraisals have to be made and recorded .

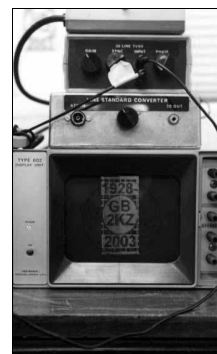
All this information should provide much interesting work for the future.

Many people have been involved in this project but now special mention must be made of the 'Amberley' team (Peter G4JNU, Vic G3SDQ and Ted G3GMZ) and Ed K2MP who learnt how to receive NBTV in four weeks.

Apart from the successful repetition of an historic transmission, the reception of recognisable moving images over a distance of more than 3,500 miles is in itself a noteworthy technical achievement.

Copyright NBTVA 2003

Links: <http://www.nbtv.org>
<http://www.arrl.org>



Electronic 30-line display used to monitor the output of the transmitter.



Transmitting Station set-up in the Friends Centre at the Amberley Museum

apex of our 'V' beam aerial and trees gave us supports for the other ends of the 300 foot wires. After three visits to the site we had the aerial up and an aerial tuning unit to match a 50 ohm coaxial cable to the 450 ohm aerial feeder. This completed the second stage of the event.

By now it was December and the third stage had started.

From a home location, contact was es-

IRTS 2m Counties Contest Spring 2003

The Spring edition of the 2m Counties Contest took place on Easter Monday 21st April.

Listening to the band during the contest the level of participation seemed very high, perhaps helped by the poor weather on the day which may have prevented normal outdoor bank holiday activities.

A total of 26 logs were submitted for the contest, 13 were emailed and the rest received by post. 4 logs were designated by the submitters as check logs.

One log was emailed 7 days after the closing date and another about 6 weeks after and were not accepted for entry. This left a total of 20 for the contest proper.

The standard of logs received were excellent both legible and accurate. Analysis of the logs showed activity from most counties in EI/GI, exceptions being Laois & Offaly which did not benefit from any portable operations.

As can be seen from the attached results sheet the results in most sections were clear cut.

Niall EI4CF had a comfortable win in the High Power Fixed while South Dublin and Dundalk fought it out in the High Power /P with both returning an excellent 7000+ score with SDR winning by around 500 points.

High Power /P also contains a DX entry from Tom Jones GW0HGN

Pat EI9HX using the EI2SBC club call-sign as a single op easily won the FM only with 4500+ points.

The closest competition was in the Low Power Portable where Paul EI2JF just edged out the Tipperary Group, EI7T. The margin was just 59 pts.

Despite having a lower QSO count, EI2JF was able to work Dublin stations from his Carlow QTH for 6 pointers and also the many Tipperary stations were also worth 6 to him whereas for EI7T in Kilkenny these only counted 2 points.

My thanks to all who participated, submitted entries and check logs.

Noel Walsh EI2JC
Contest Manager

Results

	QSOs	Counties	Points	QTH
High Power Fixed				
1. Niall Foley EI4CF	46	17	3026	GY
2. John Kelly EI4HS	41	15	2355	KE
3. Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI	48	15	1770	CK
4. Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY	29	2	58	CK
High Power Portable				
1. South Dublin R.C. EI2SDR	64	23	7889	LM
2. Dundalk A.R.S. EI7DAR	75	20	7300	LH
3. Tipperary A.R.G., EI7TRG	52	12	1584	TY
4. Connor O'Neill EI4EXB	32	12	1192	CK
5. Tom Jones GW0HGN	25	10	880	GW
6. Cork Radio Club EI5CRC	39	7	497	CK
FM Only				
1. Shannon Basin Radio Club EI2SBC (Op. EI9HX)	52	20	4520	RN
2. John Edgeworth EI6IW	36	16	2000	TY
3. John O' Sullivan EI6ARB	24	12	900	DD
4. Sean O'Suilleabhain EI3IP	24	10	720	MH
5. John Williams EI7JG	15	6	174	DD
Low Power Fixed				
1. Tom McGrath EI7HT	31	11	1078	DD
2. Dave Moore EI4BZ	36	8	648	CK
Low Power Portable				
1. Paul Hurley EI2JF	36	16	2864	CW
2. Tipperary Radio EI7T	44	14	2805	KK
3. Ray Harbison GI3PDN	34	14	1918	AM

Thanks to the following for sending check logs:

Brendan EI0CZ, Nicky EI9JF, Mick EI4JL, Michael MI5MTC

Irish Radio Transmitters Society VHF/UHF Field Day Possible Rule Changes

The IRTS Committee are looking at the rules governing scoring in the VHF/UHF Field Day with a view to making some changes.

Interested individuals or groups are invited to make submissions to the Contest Manager, Noel EI2JC (nwalsh@eircom.ie)



Summits On The Air With Joe Ryan EI7GY

Summits on the Air (SOTA) - the first five months

The SOTA programme was launched in the Republic of Ireland in March (see May-June 2003 Echo Ireland for more details).

Since the launch, there have been at least 25 activations of summits in Ireland.

An activation involves at least 4 QSOs from a summit.

Most of the activity to date has been from the summits in the Wicklow area, but Errigal in Donegal, Croagh Patrick in Mayo and Knockmealdown in Waterford/Tipperary have also been activated - and possibly more.

The SOTA organisation, which is based in the UK, has developed an on-line system for submitting SOTA logs, and details of all the activations notified to the SOTA organisation are available on their web site.

I have found SOTA to be a very enjoyable way of combining my interest in radio with my interest in mountain

walking.

Operating portable from a hilltop presents its own challenges, mainly to keep everything as light as possible.

My preferred mode of operation is CW on HF, operating around the QRP frequency on 40 metres, which is where most SOTA activity on HF is centred.

My HF rig is an SG-2020, running at about 10W to a half-wave dipole, mounted on a fishing pole.

A 3AH gel-cell will power this for several hours. I also operate 2 metres FM, using a very simple set-up of a hand held and a small whip.

Operating from a height, I have had no difficulty working stations in England, Scotland and Wales, using just 5W on 2 metres.

Others active on EI summits include Charlie EI7HG, Mike EI4JL, Colin GI0RQK and Kyle EI2JO.

We would like to see and hear more activity on the hills!

Joe Ryan EI7GY

ARRL 10m 2002 EI Scores

Call	Points	QSOs	Mults	Modes	Power
EI5DI	1,025,200	1,482	200	Mxd	Low
EI4DW	489,808	998	184	Mxd	High
EI7DJ	485,676	1,432	162	Mxd	High
EI8IR	480,912	1,876	129	SSB	High
EI8GS	442,260	1,781	126	SSB	High
EI4CF	120,904	516	119	SSB	Low
EI2JC	48,048	159	88	Mxd	Low

This contest, held last December, saw quite good conditions across the Atlantic with some good scores as you can see.

Paul EI5DI was once again the leading EI in the mixed category while John EI8IR was the top EI in the SSB section.

Congrats to all involved.

This years contest will be held in early December.

New 2m Repeater - EI2ECR



On Sunday August 10th last, a new 2 metre was brought into operation at Helvick Head, near Dungarvan in Co. Waterford. The repeater, an East Cork Group project, was built by Neil EI3JE and was installed with the co-operation of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group on their site at Helvick.

The repeater is on 145.675 MHz and it requires carrier and 2 seconds of audio to access it. The timeout is 4 minutes.

The installation crew pictured above are from the left: Jerry EI6BT, Eoin EI7FXB, Neil EI3JE, Jim EI8GS, John EI8JA and Nicky EI3JB. Not in picture, Jim EI8IG.

Special mention is due to Nicky EI3JB who spent many hours up the tower installing the aerials and cables. The repeater is fitted in its own cabinet with separate receive and transmit aerials fed with LDF500 and mounted at 100 and 90 feet on the tower.

Congratulations to Neil EI3JE who was responsible for the whole project.

It is providing good coverage, particularly to the east and into the UK and is also very strong to the west along the coast.

Reception reports to Neil EI3JE via e-mail to: neilpowell1@eircom.net.

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A52A Bhutan.

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Greenhills, Dublin 12.

ei6fr@gofree.indigo.ie

086-4027652



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

VHF/UHF Field Day

Last Julys VHF/UHF Field Day attracted six portable entries and while the weather was reasonably good, propagation conditions were unfortunately mainly flat.

Tipperary Radio Group operated from the top of Slievenamon;

Cork Radio Club operated from a cliff-top site near Crosshaven;

a joint entry from the **Wexford VHF**

Group and the East Cork Group operated from their usual site on Fort Mountain near Wexford Town.

The **Galway Radio Experimenters**

Club made a welcome return to Field Day while the east coast was represented by the **North Dublin and the Dundalk Radio Clubs**.

Congrats EI2CH

Congratulations to Gerry EI2CH who was an early bird prize winner in the competition associated with WRTC 2002 in Finalnd.

SSB Field Day

It looks like eight stations will be set up in Ballinasloe for the SSB Filed Day. Visitors to the site will be very welcome and you never know, there may well be some last minute vacancies in some of the stations, especially on the night shift!

CQWW SSB EI Records (Up to and Including 2002)

	Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC	Year
All	EI8IC	1,515,746	1,803	85	312	1999
10	EI3JE	692,958	2,155	34	113	2002
15	EI8GS	506,850	1,808	33	122	2002
20	EI2CN	605,914	2,080	35	107	1984
40	EI5GM	41,349	490	13	64	2002
80	EI8IR	159,965	1,203	21	86	2002
160	No Entry					

Low Power

LAll	EI7GL	700,006	1,164	77	312	2000
L10	EI4DW	279,070	1,173	23	95	2000
L15	EI6FR	392,657	1,451	33	124	2000
L20	EI8IC	230,184	1,191	31	108	2001
L40	EI2CA	16,756	188	13	58	2002
L80	No Entry					
L160	EI7IU	5,989	147	6	35	1998

Assisted (Packet)

A All	EI8IR	2,977,871	3,005	123	410	2000
A 10	EI4DW	472,512	1,516	29	109	2001
A 15	EI6FR	203,312	769	27	104	1997
A 20	EI2GX	204,276	1,017	27	89	1997
A40	No Entry					
A80	No Entry					
A 160	No Entry					

Multi-Single

MS	EI7M	9,563,686	6586	153	605	2001
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Multi-Multi

MM	No Entry					
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CQWW SSB 2002

Last October's CQWW SSB contest had 13 logs entered from EI, one of the best entries for quite a while.

Some good scores were achieved and four new EI records were set.

Neil EI3JE takes the 10m high power spot, displacing Jim EI8GS who in turn takes the 15m record from Tim EI8IC.

Jeremy EI5GM is the holder of the record on 40m high power while Paul EI2CA does likewise in the 40m low power section.

John EI8IR set a new 80m high power record and in the process finished 6th in the world and 5th in Europe.

The old record was held by EI0REI and was the longest standing EI record being set in 1974.

CQ WW SSB 2002

EI Results

Call	Bands	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC
EI4DW	A	1,123,892	1402	74	282
EI4BZ	A	380,016	632	65	247
EI3JE	28	692,958	2155	34	113
EI8GS	21	506,850	1808	33	122
EI5GM	7	41,349	490	13	64
EI8IR	3.7	159,965	1203	21	86
*EI6HB	A	155,295	368	50	153
*EI2CH	A	108,564	380	44	122
*EI9ES	A	98,638	285	46	103
*EI5DI	28	54,360	300	18	72
*EI4CF	21	181,916	786	30	116
*EI2CA	7	16,756	188	13	58
EI9E	MS	737,661	1024	80	313

*low power

IOTA Contest 2003



The EJ2SDR shack on Inishbofin



**EJ7M on Bere Island
Jerry EI6BT and John EI8IR getting the poles ready**

EI participation in this years IOTA contest seemed higher than normal but only three island stations were heard. Members of South Dublin Radio Club and its sister club GEARS, from County Antrim, operated in the IOTA Contest from Inisbofin, off the Galway coast. The callsign used was EJ2SDR. A lot of planning went into this years event, using the lessons learned from the group's first contest operation in the 2002 IOTA Contest.

Computer problems forced them to resort to paper logging, but that apart, the event went well.

Band conditions seemed well down on previous years, with little or no activity on 10 metres.

Declan EI9HQ made the long trip to Arranmore Island off Co. Donegal and operated in the 12 hour SSB section. The Dalkey Group had planned to make the trip to Bere Island but circumstances prevented them from doing so.

The East Cork Group took advantage of the situation and a three man team (EI4BZ, 6BT & 8IR) travelled to Bere Island and operated EJ7M in the 100w restricted category.

Other EI stations heard during the contest included; EI2JD, EI4CF, EI5DI, EI6IZ, EI7CC, EI7GY, EI8FH, EI7IQ, and EI8GS.

Members Advertisements

For Sale: W3DZZ 80/40m Trap Dipole €100.00
Cushcraft A3S 3 Element 10/15/20m Yagi €450.00
Watson W2000. Tri-band Vertical 2m/70cm/6m €80.00
Tonna 11 Element 2m Yagi €80.00:
Tonna 22 Element 2m Yagi €100.00
Tower, fixed, 2 section lattice, with rotator cage €300.00
Yaesu Rotator G800SDX with 40 feet cable €400.00
12v, battery operated, super winch (1.2 ton) €200.00
Yaesu ATAS100, automatic mobile whip €300.00
Ground plane kit for ATAS100 for base use €60.00
Kenwood TS850S HF Transceiver, with auto ATU, €800.00
Yaesu FT100, HF/VHF/UHF/6m mobile (includes detachable head kit) ... €900.00
Yaesu FT8100R, dual band VHF/UHF mobile €350.00
Hands free Kit for FT8100 €40.00:
Watson 25 Amp PSU €100.00
PSU 10 Amp €50.00:
Dual Band Mobile Whip (VHF/UHF) HB770 €60.00
Duplexer (HF/VHF/UHF MX62M) 1.6 –56 MHz & 140 –470 MHz €60.00
Yaesu FL-2100Z HF Amplifier (10m—160m) with spare valve €500.00
SX400 SWR/Power Meter (70cm/2m) €80.00
SWR/Power Meter for 2m €20.00:
3 Way Switch (HF) €20.00
Icom W2E VHF/UHF Handheld. (Full dual band, spare battery pack) €200.00
RH9000 Whip for Handheld €10.00:
HK-708 Morse Key €30.00
EI5IO@eircom.net or 086-8728743 after 1830.

For Sale: Challenger III HF Amplifier (Linear Amp UK). Only three months old with 9 months of original guarantee still to run. Less than one hours use. This amp uses a Russian GS35 ceramic triode valve and is rated at 1500 watts on all bands, 1.8 - 29.7 MHz. Price €1850.00.
Telephone 086-8213646

For Sale: Kenwood TS940S HF Transceiver with auto ATU. Good condition €800.00
Telephone —086-2684993; 021-4774955

For Sale: NRD-535 Shortwave Receiver. In mint condition, boxed with handbook.
Contact Tony Byrne on 087-9743775.

For Sale: Icom IC765 HF Transceiver, top class rig in perfect condition €800.00
Yaesu FT101E, carefully restored, new valves, immaculate example. €400.00
Contact Declan EI6FR 086-4027652



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